

CLAIMS

SUB A3 X
5 A method of providing information to at least one movable platform in an area where signal coverage is not available from an information source, to create an information network, the method comprising steps of:

transmitting an information signal containing the information with a transmitter located at the information source;

receiving the information signal with a first transmitter/receiver unit located on a movable platform that is within a signal coverage area of the information source; and

10 re-transmitting the information signal with the first transmitter/receiver unit to a receiver located on the at least one movable platform

2. A method of providing information from at least one movable platform in an area where a signal network does not exist between the at least one movable platform and a destination, the method comprising steps of:

15 transmitting an information signal containing the information with a transmitter located on the at least one movable platform;

receiving the information signal with a first transmitter/receiver unit located on a movable platform that is within a signal coverage area of the destination; and

20 re-transmitting the information signal with the first transmitter/receiver unit to a receiver located at the destination.

3. The method as claimed in claims 1 and 2, further comprising repeating the steps of receiving and re-transmitting the information signal along a signal path with an additional transmitter/receiver unit to provide the information signal between the first transmitter/receiver unit and the at least one movable platform.

SUB F3
30 4. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the additional transmitter/receiver unit is located on a fixed platform.

SUB A4
5. The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the additional transmitter/receiver unit is located on a movable platform.

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22. The system as claimed in claim 17, wherein at least two of the movable platforms are located on parallel pathways and are travelling in the same direction.

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re-transmitting the information signal with the transmitter/receiver unit to a receiver that is located on a second movable platform.

32. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the first and second movable platforms are located on a pathway and are travelling in opposite directions.

34. The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the first and second movable platforms are located on parallel pathways, and are travelling in opposite directions.

37. The method as claimed in claim 30 wherein at least one of the movable platforms
30 is not located on a pathway.

Sub A^B 20

38. The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising repeating the steps of receiving and re-transmitting the information signal with at least one additional transmitter/receiver unit located on a third movable platform, to provide the information signal between the first movable platform and the second movable platform.

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39. The method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the step of re-transmitting the information signal with the at least one additional transmitter/receiver units includes transmitting the information signal to a receiver unit located on a fourth movable platform.

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